

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (new) A method of topically treating a skin condition comprising applying to the skin a combination of a peroxide and a tertiary amine, with the exclusion of erythromycin, the tertiary amine increasing radicals formed by the peroxide on/in the skin to thereby increase the efficacy of the peroxide in the treatment of the skin condition.

3. (new) A method according to claim 2 wherein the peroxide is benzoyl peroxide.

4. (new) A method according to claim 3 wherein the skin condition is acne.

5. (new) A method according to claim 3 wherein the benzoyl peroxide and the tertiary amine react by an S_N2 mechanism to produce an intermediate that decomposes to benzoyloxy radicals and an amine radical cation.

6. (new) A method according to claim 2 wherein the tertiary amine is an antibiotic.

7. (new) A method according to claim 4 wherein the tertiary amine is an antibiotic.

8. (new) A method according to claim 2 wherein the radicals are increased in the comedone of the skin.

9. (new) A method of topically treating a skin condition comprising applying to the skin a combination of a peroxide and a tertiary amine, with the exclusion of erythromycin, the tertiary amine increasing radicals formed by the peroxide on/in the skin to thereby increase the efficacy of the peroxide in the treatment of the skin condition, wherein the peroxide and the tertiary amine are combined in a manner such that the radicals are formed on/in the skin and not prior to application of the peroxide and the tertiary amine to the skin.

10. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein the peroxide and the tertiary amine are combined at the time of their application to the skin.

11. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein the peroxide is dissolved in a hydrophobic solvent and the tertiary amine is dissolved in a polar solvent.

12. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein at least one of the peroxide and the tertiary amine is contained in a slow release polymer.

13. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein the peroxide is benzoyl peroxide.

14. (new) A method according to claim 13 wherein the skin condition is acne.

15. (new) A method according to claim 13 wherein the benzoyl peroxide and the tertiary amine react by an S_N2 mechanism to produce an intermediate that decomposes to benzoyloxy radicals and an amine radical cation.

16. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein the tertiary amine is an antibiotic.

17. (new) A method according to claim 9 wherein the radicals are increased in the comedone of the skin.

18. (new) A method of topically treating acne comprising applying to the skin a combination of benzoyl peroxide and an antibiotic having a tertiary amine, with the exclusion of erythromycin, the tertiary amine increasing radicals formed by the benzoyl peroxide on/in the skin to thereby increase the efficacy of the benzoyl peroxide in the treatment of the acne, wherein the benzoyl peroxide and the antibiotic are combined in a manner such that the radicals are formed on/in the skin and not prior to application of the benzoyl peroxide and the antibiotic to the skin.